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Title: Need to review Central Government notification based on Madhav Gadgil Committee report on Western Ghats.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): I wish to convey the widespread resentment of the people of Kerala over the reported recommendations of the Madhav Gadgil Committee on conservation of the ecological character of the Western Ghats. The report is utopian and does not factor in unique demographic pattern of the communities settled along the Western Ghat region in Kerala.

The Gadgil Committee has classified 14 taluks in Kerala as falling within extremely fragile ecological zone. Building of dams, power generation units above 10 MW, mining and even cultivation using chemical fertilisers and pesticides are not to be permitted in these zones.

Whereas settlement above 500 mtrs altitude are included in the ecological vulnerable zones in Tamil Nadu, the Gadgil Committee has specified an altitude of only 150 mtrs and above for such areas to be included in the fragile zone in Kerala. This is highly discriminatory as most of the agrarian communities in the state, settled along Western Ghat areas are small farmers with holding of less than 2 acres of arable land and it would be a travesty of justice to deny them the advantage of advanced tools of productivity like chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

Kerala feels that ecological observation need not be at the cost of bare sustenance of livelihood of the masses. I urge upon the Government to take remedial steps in this regard.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 7th

February, 2014 at 11.00 a.m.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock

on Friday, February 7, 2014/Magha 18, 1935 (Saka).

* Due to continuous interruptions in the House, Starred Questions could not be taken up for Oral Answers. Therefore these Starred Questions were treated as Unstarred Questions.

* The Report was presented to the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 24th January, 2014 and forwarded to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on the same day.